

Abstract of the Disclosure

Described are methods of production of polysuccinimides having molecular weights up to 200,000 daltons and higher. The polysuccinimides of the invention are essentially unbranched and uncrosslinked. They can be modified by crosslinking, ring-opening, and/or other functionalization, if desired, to form gelling materials of superior performance. The high Mw polysuccinimides are also particularly useful as thickening agents, viscosity modifiers, emollients, humectants and in other applications that are known in the art to be serviced most effectively by molecules of higher molecular weight.